

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00726 081735Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01
OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SS-15 ACDA-07 OES-07 /112 W
-----107680 081752Z /44

R 081158Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6841
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0726

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PINS PINT PDIP PDEV EAID ECON EFIS ELAB SHUM MP UR FR US
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - JULY 8 (SUMMARY)

REF: PORT LOUIS 0707

1. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JUNE 30 THE TOP LEADERS OF THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM), MESSRS. JUGNAUTH AND BERENGER, REAFFIRMED THEIR PARTY' COMMITMENT TO PURSUING POWER THROUGH ELECTORAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS. THEY REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINING LABOR TO FORM A GOVERNMENT OF "NATIONAL UNITY," BUT AGREED THAT THE MMM WOULD CONTINUE HELPING THE COUNTRY BE BEING A "CONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION."

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2. ACTING PRIME MINISTER RINGADOO DURING A RECENT LABOR PARTY RALLY ADMITTED THAT HIS PARTY LOST TO THE MMM LAST DECEMBER BECAUSE OF LABOR'S POOR CHOICE OF CANDIDATES IN SOME DISTRICTS. HE ALSO ACCUSED BERENGER OF PLANNING TO INSTALL A DICTATORSHIP, LABELLING HIM THE LABOR PARTY'S "ENEMY NUMBER ONE."

3. ONE MORE EVENT POINTING TO THE COOLING OF MAURITIAN-SOVIET

RELATIONS OCCURRED THIS PAST WEEK WHEN THE GOM REFUSED TO PERMIT A SOVIET VISSLER TO OFFLOAD 200 TONS OF FISH. THE STORY APPEARED IN INDEPENDENT L'EXPRESS APPARENTLY BASED ON OFFICIAL GOM SOURCES. THE MOVE WAS RELATED TO THE GOM'S ABROGATION OF THE FISHING ACCORD WITH THE USSR. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS HAVE APPARENTLY TRIED TO RENEW THE AGREEMENT BY OFFERING MORE AID, THE GOM REPORTEDLY REGARDS THESE OFFERS WITH SKEPTICISM.

4. FOLLOWING A MEETING HERE OF THE FRANCO-MAURITIAN MIXED COMMISSION THIS WEEK, FRENCH AID PROJECTS FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS WERE ANNOUNCED. AMOUNTING TO 150 MILLION RUPEES (HALF IN GRANTS), THE AID PACKAGE WILL FINANCE A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS INCLUDING GENERATORS FOR THE ISLAND'S FALTERING ELECTRICAL SUPPLY, A RICE CULTURE PILOT PROJECT, AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY IN FRANCE.

5. REPORTS OF AN IMPENDING ECONOMIC RECESSION IN MAURITIUS HAVE RECEIVED IMPETUS RECENTLY WITH INCREASING WORKER LAYOFFS IN THE INDUSTRIAL FREE ZONE. MANAGEMENT BLAMES THE SLOWDOWN ON ABSENTEEISM AND LOW PRODUCTIVITY, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN INABILITY TO MEET DELIVERY DEADLINES AND THEREBY CONTRACT LOSSES. THE MMM'S UNION ARM HAS BEEN HARSHLY CRITICAL OF THE DISMISSALS, AND THREATENS TO ACT, BUT AS YET HAS NOT MADE ANY PROPOSAL TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEM. LABOR MINISTER MOHAMED HAS BEEN MEETING WITH BOTH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT LEADERS TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM.

6. THE AMBASSADOR, AS IN PAST YEARS, BROADCAST A JULY 4 ANNIVERSARY
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STATEMENT ON NATIONWIDE RADIO AND TV. THE ADDRESS' THEME OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CURRENT US FOREIGN POLICY WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ALIKE.

7. PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM IS SPENDING TWO WEEKS IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND FOLLOWING THE OAU SUMMIT TO HAVE A REST AND A COMPLETE MEDICAL CHECK-UP.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - JULY 8 (SUMMARY)
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